

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /154 W

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P R 200908Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1172

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: STUDENT SITUATION

REF: SEOUL 7784

SUMMARY: SNU DECIDED ON "COOLING OFF PERIOD" WHILE OTHER SCHOOLS ARE ANNOUNCING EARLY EXAMS AS MEANS TO COPE WITH STUDENT PROTEST. EDUCATION MINISTRY ALSO REVEALED PLANS FOR ENHANCED CONTROL OF STUDENTS. ONLY TWO SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED.

2. SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED AFTER DEANS' MEETING NOV 20 THAT SCHOOL WOULD HAVE A COOLING OFF PERIOD AFTER WHICH IT WOULD RESUME LECTURES AND HOLD FINAL EXAMS. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID SEPARATE COLLEGES WOULD DECIDE LENGTH OF COOLING OFF PERIOD AND DATE OF EXAMS. EXAMS WOULD BE COMPLETED AND GRADES GIVEN BY FEBRUARY 20 AT THE LATEST. NEWS STORIES QUOTED EXPLANATION BY DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS KIM CH'OL-SU THAT HOME ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN AS SUBSTITUTE FOR CLASS ATTENDANCE DURING MARTIAL LAW PERIOD LAST YEAR PROVED UNSATISFACTORY. THEREFORE, SNU WOULD HAVE MAKE-UP LECTURES AND WOULD WITHHOLD CREDIT FROM STUDENTS WHO DID NOT TAKE FINAL EXAMS.

2. YONSEI AND KOREA UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETINGS NOV 20 FAILED TO
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DECIDE ON END OF SEMESTER SCHEDULE. MEANWHILE, CLASSES ARE SUS-

PENDEED AT KOREA AND BOYCOTTED AT YONSEI.

3. MOST OF SEOUL'S LESSER UNIVERSITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED DATES FOR FINAL EXAMS WHICH WILL BE THIS WEEK OR NEXT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVT GUIDANCE REPORTED REFTEL. IN ADDITION, PRESS REPORTS THAT PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES ARE PLANNING ON EARLY EXAMS.

4. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCED DECISION AT MEETING OF GOVT OFFICIALS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS NOV 20 TO CHANGE CRITERIA AND TIGHTEN CONTROLS ON GOVT SCHOLARSHIPS. IN ADDITION TO PRESENT REQUIREMENT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS WOULD HAVE TO MEASURE UP IN BEHAVIOR, IDEOLOGY, PERSONALITY AND RECORD OF CONTRIBUTING TO GOOD OF THE STATE. STUDENT HOLDING SCHOLARSHIP WOULD BE UNDER GUIDANCE OF A FACULTY MEMBER WHO WOULD HAVE POWER TO TERMINATE STIPEND IMMEDIATELY IF STUDENT DEVIATED FROM THESE STANDARDS.

5. EARLIER, EDUCATION MINISTRY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SEND ABOUT 1,700 STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ON TOURS OF INDUSTRIAL SITES DURING WINTER VACATION.

6. ABOUT 200 STUDENTS AT HANKUK SEMINARY NOV 20 MET ON CAMPUS AND MARCHED ONTO STREET, WHERE THEY WERE TURNED BACK BY RIOT POLICE. ONLY OTHER REPORTED PROTEST ACTIVITY WAS A "SMALL" MEETING ON CAMPUS OF KONKUK UNIVERSITY.

7. COMMENT: PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM TOLD AMBASSADOR GOVT HAD "GIVEN UNIVERSITIES THE OPTION" OF ENDING CLASSES AND MOVING UP DATES OF FINAL EXAMS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF SNU GOVT IS CONFIDENT IT CAN MAINTAIN CONTROL OF SITUATION AND DECIDED TO LET SCHOOL REMAIN OPEN. DESPITE KIM'S COMMENT, SCENARIO AT SNU IS NOT CLEAR. SNU DEAN HAS TOLD US SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF SEMESTER WILL BE DECIDED AT SERIES OF FACULTY

MEETINGS IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE PREDICTED THAT LAW COLLEGE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUSPEND CLASSES UNTIL FEBRUARY, WHEN EXAMS WOULD BE GIVEN. HE PREDICTED SEVERAL OTHER SNU COLLEGES WOULD FOLLOW SAME PATTERN.

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8. EDUCATION MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED PARA 5 ABOVE IS PART OF NEW GOVT APPROACH TO STUDENT PROBLEM MENTIONED EARLIER BY PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL TO AMBASSADOR. GOVT'S AIM IS OBVIOUSLY TO PUT FAR GREATER DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AND FACULTY MEMBERS TO INSURE GOOD BEHAVIOR. IN PAST, ROK CIA HAD ARRANGED STUDENT INDUSTRIAL TOURS AND WE BELIEVE PARA SIX ANNOUNCEMENT IS EFFORT TO EXPAND AND REGULARIZE SUCH TOURS UNDER MORE RESPECTABLE AUSPICES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL STABILITY, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, STUDENT GROUPS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL07818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731122/aaaaaqcs.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 7784
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005